

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Community Development

Bishop (Eastern)

- Big Pine chamber and civic club are interested in grants-Bill Wright is contact
- Independence/county wide: historical preservation, county leases many of these buildings from DWP
- ID Native American archeological and cultural resources
- Resources for location and planning for airport. Positives: increased business, recreation and tourism. Negatives: communities' ability to deal with infrastructure, noise, pollution
- Workforce / affordable housing resources: planning, grants, and tech assistance needed
- Will SNC funding be equally divided among the regions?
- We need more project examples from other conservancies
- Ecological and environmental education in local schools for kids and adults, opportunities for eco-tourism
- Foster opportunities for a SN outdoor laboratory, link 4 year colleges to local education opportunities
- Source of funding for supporting new working farms, ranches and forests. Need for expansion of land ownership and housing
- "Hometown" competitive strategy: community foundation, entrepreneurship, youth involvement, leadership
- Resources for the county to participate in an inter-agency land tenure group
- Alternative energy promotion: solar, wind, geothermal
- Capacity building for community development orgs
- Process for easements on DWP lands, can SNC work here?
- Continuing education on what SNC can do for community development
- Discussion of easement process should include: community well-being, recreation, access, alternative transportation, open space
- Better medical care facilities for residents and visitors
- Emergency care up to leading standards
- Ability to treat locally rather than travel out of area
- SNC must be mindful that local zoning is compatible with landscape
- PR for ecotourism

Susanville (Northern)

- Visitor centers to strengthen regional economy
- On-going funding for CDFG properties
- Can we fund local entities to manage these lands?
- How to address backlog of ranchers who want to do conservation easements?
- Need to improve trails access and maintenance
- Modoc line trail funding and for the trail transactional costs
- Public lands grazing - need to maintain access to maintain working ranches
- Timber mgmt plans on public lands- intersect between fed and local policy - restore and manage
- Need to restore (and manage) sagebrush steppe ecosystem
- Juniper removal - could use for biomass and economic activity (in association with sagebrush steppe restore)
- Cedarville visitors center - opportunity
- Economic development opportunities for youth, retain local youth, job training, government opportunities in Susanville
- Attracting visitors and promoting events to stimulate local economy - e.g. festivals, runs, competitions
- Need to link jobs to resource base for sustainability (e.g. Cogen plants for Juniper)
- REACH program in Klamath County is good example - a value added juniper operation
- Address dead spots in DSL availability

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Susanville (Northern) cont'd

- Wildlife habitat improvement - more opportunities for local use of these properties, current lack of local mgmt, losing hunting/fishing visitors
- Viewing and visitors center for Ash Creek, wildlife area, tourism
- Susanville mill reuse plan, conservation, performing arts, business center
- How will Conservancy work across state lines? (e.g. BLM regions overlap)
- How do we best preserve local resource based industries?
- Modoc county - acreage for grass bank to put animals in case of fire or drought, etc
- Preserving and expanding local tax base

Sonora (South-Central)

- How can SNC benefit local economy? Can't see it.
- How will SNC benefit local forests?
- Conduit for museums and other tourism related activities (including historic landmarks)
- Funding for development of Comm. Projects, tech assistance, \$
- Need to understand balance between Development and Environment (Triple bottom line)
- Downtown revitalization
- Rights-of-way along roads
- Jurisdiction for decision making - does it rest with local communities?
- Ways to maintain community identity? Acquisition, Planning
- No \$ to implement bike and pedestrian plans and trail plans
- Assist CalTrans with road planning and other infrastructure
- Effects of clear cutting - research
- Promotion of timber industry jobs
- Alternative forest practices
- How is funding per region determined?
- Local oversight over SNC process
- South Central region needs control over own jurisdiction
- Concern that SNC may turn into park - won't permit locals to have influence on local resources
- Maintain jobs locally - keep locals local
- SNC needs to help not hinder local economy
- How will SNC support affordable housing? Loans to local agencies for developing AF, develop workforce, "worktowns"
- Can SNC help to determine economic benefits of restoration RE Hetch Hetchy for Tuolumne
- Some disagreement RE whether tourism is wanted or not
- Coordination with RCD's, community action agencies and community development corporations
- Rural community development - ensure alignment among groups - bring appropriate materials (tech assistance) to rural areas
- Funding for RCD's (capacity, organizational, Dev)
- Coordination b/w resource agencies and local economic dev agencies
- Communication within Sierra (TV, Radio, tech) needs improvement (need study to provide these)
- Protecting open space between communities (so towns don't run together) anti-sprawl
- Local capacity assessment for region
- Maintaining small town atmosphere
- Protection of equestrian access throughout region
- Econ dev to promote small business - increasing capacity, revolving loans, regional branding, biz training
- Link environment with economic viability, ex. Small wood vitalization projects
- Maintain farms - working landscapes and, ex. Buy development rights, conservation easements
- Link between working landscapes and tourism

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Sonora (South-Central) cont'd

- Connect BLM, USFS, other trail and recreational systems
- Support for capacity building and micro-enterprise
- Pilot projects - important to start with these
- Concern with jobs and housing balance
- Business to support bike trail network
- Supporting sustainable efforts to be involved, educated, effective in local planning process
- Support for infill development
- Support for equestrian agrotourism
- Focus on livable communities for older adults
- Demographics, migration from higher to lower elevations with in Sierra

Fresno (Southern)

- What is the distinction between conservation versus preservation? With regards to working landscapes- we need more clarity
- Is strengthen Regional Economy and support community sustainability a program area or desired outcome?- These are outcomes, not programs
- What are specific examples of how SNC would support working farms?
- Agricultural importance in central valley is critical and should be considered
- Agricultural use of and impact of growth on Oak woodlands- encouraging food rangeland management
- Assist uses to improve access to wilderness (Management practices for access)- Fire safety, safety, direct assistance to local community for fire management
- Example of Denali park creating access (transportation) to park- help local communities
- Balance between open space and development- SNC should play role, planning/master planning assistance, community planning, open space planning as part of development (up front)
- Look at technical assistance to help region come up with planning concepts for community development- leverage existing expertise (Sierra Business Council), Share successes across the range
- Encourage sustainable practices in forestry- success stories, case studies, share across region
- Invest in infrastructure (for development in specific areas) to improve access - agricultural conservation, intersect between valley and foothill
- Direct people to the urban development boundaries
- Maintaining community character when development happens- rock quarry/asphalt plant in the middle of agricultural land (Road 209, Madera), conflicting land uses in foothills (they need help)
- SNC Funds for long-term restoration of resource extraction sites (above/beyond current requirements), need for demonstration projects
- SNC support with - livestock grazing issues
- Recognition of the differences between North Sierra, Central, and South -Change of natural systems between regions
- Regional specificity to community development programs (recognize differences and historic factors)
- Pressure to impound water from Southern Sierra as climate change increases pressure (Increase in land development)
- Focus on watershed management and practices (Best Management Practices)
- Balance between economic and environment in Kern River Valley- maintain community character
- Issue of ranchers losing grazing rights due to fire- link between summer and winter range
- Support efforts to balance conservation (versus preservation) and economic well-being
- Community development as it relates to gateway communities- preserve culture/history
- Scenic corridor designation to project character
- Support forums for community plan updates for more open, broader participation- facilitated- Scenario planning (Show results of decisions)

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El Dorado (Central)

- How will SNC help sustain small communities without damaging community and environment- technical assistance- leverage assets
- Economic diversification- one sector too many (e.g. timber) - move with economic times
- Other ways to grow instead of trading lands for homes/ 2nd homes - preserve working landscapes
- Leverage working farms to promote economic development
- Internet/ telecom connecting to promote growth of small businesses- leverage innovation
- Value-added products : biomass to energy, furniture out of wood, fruit to jams, fruits to pies, cider mills, Ethanol / Methanol from wineries, High Sierra Beer, Fruits to wine
- Having State/ Regional Agencies develop some consistencies across the region
- Infrastructure- water systems (Delivery and waste), Transportation, Sidewalks/ bikes (non-motorized), Planning support for growth- tourism, population, seasonality (multiple use), workforce housing and needs public involvement, Financing for all of the above, and pooling resources (community financing pools)
- Planning: Spearhead regional planning efforts and low-impact development
- Best Management Practices- clearinghouse, networks
- Support of general plan updates: studies in cost effective manner, technical assistance to reduce costs, clearinghouse/disseminator, asset inventory, GIS users group
- Sierra wide agricultural marketing program- regional branding, assistance to ranchers/ farmers
- Checkerboard issues
- Wildland / urban interface
- Working across government, public, private, sectors on forestry
- Support fire safe councils- funding, legislative support
- Landscape continuity- conservation
- Coop with local, state, and federal agencies
- Conservation easements- protect against 'ranchettes'
- Leasing grazing rights instead of selling rights in perpetuity- rates for most important land
- Funnel data about agricultural issues through Agency from local sources
- Working directly with P,G, & E Stewardship Council
- Place for funding for monitoring and maintenance
- Improve local economy
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Education about local issues and improve schools
- Incentives for existing businesses and working ranches to keep them in the tax base
- Increase agricultural tourism by helping to create markets, branding
- Bear River Mercury remediation to improve fisheries and water-related tourism
- Preserve infrastructure that supports resource based economy
- Restoring and protecting riparian zones on public and private lands
- Recognize and support indigenous cultures in region and existing stewardship of land
- Help to create conservation easements that work- I.e. term easements, owner control
- Preserve a buffer between agriculture and urban
- Safety and health of children e.g. tremelite asbestos (Oakridge H.S., El Dorado Hills Community Service District)
- Link between fuels reduction, biomass, and Cogen
- Maintain diversity of economic classes- higher wealth gap, loss of lower and middle classes, maintain healthy communities

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Quincy (North-Central)

- Assist local communities in general planning with emphasis on agricultural and conservation easements
- Fast-track forest projects around local communities to reduce fire damage
- Programs that address infrastructure around local communities - water, waste water, storm runoff
- Conservancy role in land-trade and other barter activities to benefit local economies
- Complimentary currencies
- Reserve and protect land for the sake of the environment
- Can the conservancy direct funding to local public transportation , extending hours of service to Quincy
- Dial-a-ride programs
- IT infrastructure/high speed access
- Dumping money into local projects will not serve regional problems
- Conservancy's role in leading and facilitating regional, convening, information/education, safe format/neutral ground
- Organizing think tank process for new solutions to sustainable forestry, watershed mgmt, hazardous fuels reduction, working level income housing.
- Community revitalization projects within existing communities, downtown cores, reuse of brown/grey fields, small log utilization, permit streamlining, grants for land use visioning projects
- Voice for Sierra Private Landowners to bring federal resources
- Help rural communities exercise their area of origin water rights
- Develop surface water resource instead of ground water
- Direct conservation easement funds to areas in general funds identified for conservation
- Supporting sustainable local agriculture
- Create destination spots based on local natural resources (eco tourism)
- Planning for land use with the upcoming energy crisis in mind
- Reuse, Recycle (renewable resource entrepreneurship)
- Land stewardship - traditional forestry (public and private land)
- Productive value of ecologically functioning landscapes
- Promoting and supporting local sustainable and organic Ag
- Money for working on forest conservation easements
- Money for monitoring conservation easements
- Purchase of working ranch conservation easements